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19 June 1963

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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DAILY BRIEF

***USSR:** Vostok 5 will probably be brought to earth within the next few days, possibly today.

The orbital period of Vostok 5 is decreasing, and it may be deorbited to avoid any chance of natural decay, although a flight of several additional days appears possible. It is not known when Vostok 6 will be brought to earth, but the maximum flight of this vehicle probably will not exceed ten days.

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***USSR:** Moscow has admitted that Soviet society is plagued by a wide variety of ideological ills and has called for a general offensive to eliminate all forms of social indiscipline.

In his opening address to the Central Committee plenum on 18 June, Party ideological whip Leonid Ilichev blamed current doctrinal problems on the apparently widespread influence of bourgeois morals and on "remnants of the past in the consciousness of the people." Ilichev attacked the "ideological subversion" and psychological warfare of the West in unusually harsh tones, devoted considerable time to the need for educating Soviet youth in the spirit of communism, and catalogued a multitude of attitudes and activities which are unacceptable to the regime. Although his remarks suggested that the Kremlin is increasingly concerned over the influence of bourgeois ideology particularly on young people, the speech was generally defensive in tone and offered no specific solutions for problems he raised.

Ilichev gave only slight attention to the Sino-Soviet dispute, limiting himself to the assertion that the Soviet model is the only correct version of Marxism and to a reaffirmation of Khrushchev's doctrine of "peaceful co-existence."

The speech may have been intended as a curtain raiser. The Central Committee will apparently remain in session for several more days, and it is possible that Khrushchev will take the rostrum to reveal the regime's plans for combatting ideological nonconformity. [redacted]

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Israel: The present coalition cabinet probably will be reconstituted along existing party lines under Finance Minister Levi Eshkol, long Ben-Gurion's top political aide.

Eshkol has been formally nominated by the Mapai (labor) party to succeed Ben-Gurion, but further negotiations over specific cabinet posts could take several weeks.

The most difficult post to fill may be that of defense minister. Ben-Gurion headed that ministry with a controversial protege, Shimon Peres, as his deputy. The recent visit of former West German Defense Minister Strauss at their invitation, and their generally conciliatory policy toward West Germany caused dissension within the government which apparently contributed to Ben-Gurion's decision to resign.

It seems unlikely that the 67-year-old Eshkol would serve as more than a transitional prime minister.

Ben-Gurion's decision to remain a member of Parliament indicates that he will continue to exert influence and presumably will be available eventually to return to leadership.

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GATT: French maneuvers to revise or dissolve the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) are raising doubts about the organization's future.

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Ranking French Foreign Ministry officials have denied that Paris supports the suggestion of its chief GATT delegate that GATT functions be split between the UN and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The US Embassy is convinced, however, that these officials are thinking of some kind of reform of the international trade machinery, designed primarily to curb the influence of the less-developed countries.

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